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PROGRAM CHANGES WE'VE MADE AS A RESULT OF THE WESTERN 4-H STUDY

ARIZONA

March 1 - 3, 1955 an In-Service Training Conference was held at the University of Arizona. This Conference was held to more fully explore applications on program opportunities that might be brought to our attention as a result of recent studies of 4-H Club work in the Western region. From this Conference, it was indicated that the following applications on program changes might be listed as:

- a. More concentrated effort of individual attention to the new first year member.
- b. More concentrated effort for home visits, with particular interest toward project visitations and project progress efforts.
- c. Increased effort toward assisting the leader in 4-H counselling, in order to make each member feel a part of the total group. A re-orientation of opportunities for In-Service Training of leaders and county Extension staffs.
- d. Increase emphasis toward "blue ribbon" boys and girls instead of "blue ribbon" projects.

CALIFORNIA

Facts brought out in the Western Region Study have been used by counties as the basis for training provided Junior Leaders. Discussions were concerned with what the individual Junior Leader could do to correct the failure of first-year members to reenroll in 4-H Club work. Staff members in counties taking part in this program examined local figures and developed bar graphs showing the reasons for the failure of first-year members to reenroll. State information of a similar nature was presented at a State conference of Junior Leaders.

In order to acquaint adult 4-H Club leaders with the problem, the information contained in the summary statement on the project prepared by Mrs. Laurel Sabrosky was used in the preparation of charts. The information has been widely used over the State by counties particularly concerned with this subject.

COLORADO

Two members of the State 4-H Staff have completed Masters' reports and used problems brought out in the Western States Study for their thesis.

Better bulletins have been prepared and associate members' bulletins are now available in foods and clothing.

Continued effort has been made from the State 4-H Office in helping counties to see the need for better training of the local leaders and organization of the counties' programs to help every member get something satisfactory from the program. The percentage of completion has risen each year rather gradually but there has not been a compensating increase in membership. We believe we know many of the problems needing attention and will take continued action.

IDAHO

We have stressed with agents that first year leaders need considerable training, in the elements in the program, the literature and how to get parent cooperation and other common problems.

We have also stressed that first year members need more training and that they need to have fun and be in a friendly meeting place with their friends.

We have used the discussion guide "Meeting the Basic Needs of First Year Members" in our leader training meetings and our agents have used it in community meetings.

We have also used a set of slides developed from the bulletin "Going Up."

We have stressed participation in club meetings as very important - perhaps more important than getting perfect project work done.

We have provided a number of training devices for agents that they could use in community and county meetings to help solve leaders' problems. In county visits we have tried to help the agents in analyzing their problems and tried to show how national studies applied to their counties.

We have stressed how many projects to carry and the kinds of projects that are most likely to succeed. Community committee and leaders association have been stressed to relieve the work load on agents. We have stressed making the program a community program rather than the program of the agents.

We have emphasized the importance of recognition for leaders and members. We have helped with district and county-wide recognition meetings through pins, certificates, and publicity.

New kinds of projects to more nearly fit the needs of young people have been developed.

We introduced a series of six county training meetings (LTM-42) for leaders that was carried on by 13 counties. The percentage of completion was definitely correlated to the number of meetings attended. I am sending 20 copies of the outlines LTM-42 to you at Fort Collins for distribution to State Leaders.

MONTANA

Special emphasis has been given to recognizing first year members. Several of our county Extension agents are now sending a special welcome letter upon receipt of a first year club member's enrollment. This letter explains what is expected of the club member and the parents. We think it does much to inform both member and parents as to the objectives of club work and what is expected of the club member.

Most of the counties are emphasizing the importance of joining 4-H Club work by conducting a meaningful initiation ceremony in which the first year club member is given a pin. We at the State office, also Extension agents, are stressing the importance of reenrollment of first year members when meeting with 4-H leaders. I think all of our leaders are conscious now of the importance of reenrollment of first year members. Special emphasis is being placed too upon the completion of projects by first year members since the study showed the high correlation of drop-outs to lack of completion.

NEVADA

Have used the studies and results in leader meetings. Our leaders have used the results to place emphasis on our weak spots in an effort to strengthen the work accordingly. Results have been discussed with club members in an effort to get them to overcome weaknesses in the completions records, enrollment, meetings to be of greater value etc.

NEW MEXICO

In New Mexico, many of the facts brought out in the Western study were presented to the agents, local leaders, and junior leaders at District 4-H Leaders Short Courses the past two years. (I will take copies of our program).

OREGON

The Western study has influenced our activities in the development of the junior leader project and put into operation for the first time generally in 1954. We also put into operation for the first time at our annual State 4-H Club Summer School a series of classes on leadership. These were restricted to the junior leader age bracket, beginning at 14 and going on up to 21.

We, of course, have emphasized our literature program. We have "tooled" it to age level and interests. During the past three years, we have doubled our output in 4-H Club literature. We are working full steam ahead on other phases of it also.

We also have made some progress in our leader training program.

Probably more has been done in the area of home economics than in agriculture.

UTAH

Younger members (first, second and third year) have been given added incentives to complete projects. (Example of awards by First Security system.)

Clubs have been encouraged to prepare year-round programs in order that the clubs will remain intact and fully organized throughout the year. In a few areas, this program has been followed, with beneficial results. The Western Study has been one of the factors which have pointed-up the desirability of re-aligning projects in Utah to better fit the needs of 4-H Club members, particularly those under 14 years of age. We are now in the process of re-organizing some of our projects and activities to make them more appealing to older members.

WASHINGTON

Have incorporated material as a basis for agent training and leader training at the State Leader training conference.

WYOMING

Through changes in Individual projects.

- a. Simplifying beginning projects.
- b. Adding and adjusting projects to better meet interests and needs.

Organization:

- a. More Community clubs
- b. Year-around 4-H Club Organization
- c. Leader for each project group
- d. Strengthening of county leader councils

Leadership

- a. More organization and subject matter training for county agents.
- b. More and better training for local leaders.

Public Support

- a. Encourage agents to recognize and use business men and representatives of other groups in the 4-H Club Program.
- b. Involve and recognize parents in 4-H Club program to larger extent.

Recognition and Competition

- a. Promote broader participation in contests of all types.
- b. Recognition on basis of Junior and Senior levels
- c. Considering special non-competitive exhibit ribbon for first-year members.

4-H Club Meetings

- a. Reduce requirement in number of different club meetings to be held.
- b. Study of how club meetings are being conducted as basis for improved leader training, project literature and role of leader.



